



**STATE OF TEXAS**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Texans with disabilities have left a lasting mark on the history and culture of the Lone Star State. That is because in Texas we know that it is not our challenges that define us, but rather how we rise above them.

Among those with disabilities, Texans who are deaf and hard of hearing have long been recognized for their contributions to our state. Erastus “Deaf” Smith is known for his role in the Texas Revolution, and in 1856 the 6th Texas Legislature helped to ensure the support of this community by establishing the Texas School for the Deaf, which continues to serve students from across our state to this day.

Each September, organizations across Texas recognize the community of Texans who are deaf and hard of hearing and raise awareness of their history and contributions to our state. I thank the many families, educators, and professionals dedicated to assisting and supporting their fellow Texans.

At this time, I encourage Texans to honor and celebrate the many successes and achievements of Texans who are a part of this community. Working together, we can ensure a bright future for our state and empower all Texans to make the Lone Star State the best place to live for people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim September 23-29, 2019, to be

**Deaf Awareness Week**



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 1st day of August, 2019.

Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas